

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 L-03 INR-07
NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 OMB-01 SSO-00 EURE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0067
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USDELMC PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES PRIORITY
DIRNSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3521

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US
SUBJECT: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION: SOUDA COST SHARING

REFS: (A) ATHENS 3481 (181634Z APR 77)
(B) ATHENS 10922 (120525Z OCT 76)
(C) STATE 078591 (080030Z APR 77)

1. USING A NOT-TOO-SUBTLE STICK AND CARROT APPROACH DURING
APRIL 18 WORKING GROUP MEETING, GREEK SPOKESMAN MACHERITSAS
SAID THAT HE EXPECTED FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS TO "PRESS"
THE HELLENIC AIR FORCE TO EXHIBIT THE GREATEST POSSIBLE
FLEXIBILITY ON THE SOUDA SORTIE QUESTION AS A RESPONSIVE
GESTURE TO OUR EXPRESSIONS THAT THE U.S. WILL BE FLEXIBLE IN
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COST SHARING ARRANGEMENTS. IN CONTINUING TO REINFORCE THIS CONNECTIO
N,
IT IS BECOMING MOST OBVIOUS THAT THE GREEKS ARE HESITANT
TO SEAL A DEAL ON SPECIFIC NUMBERS BEFORE THEY FIND OUT JUST
HOW FLEXIBLE WE INTEND TO BE.

2. WE PLAN TO RE-EMPHASIZE THE RELATIONSHIP OF OUR PRIMARY

CONCESSION ON GENERAL ACCESS TO OUR EXPECTATIONS OF GREEK FLEXIBILITY ON SORTIES IN A CONTINUING EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE BEFORE WE ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON COST SHARING. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE THE HELLENIC AIR FORCE HAS ATTACHED TO COST SHARING, WE ARE NOT CONFIDENT OF OUR CHANCES FOR SUCCESS, PARTICULARLY IF THE GREEKS DO DISPLAY A FORTHCOMING (BUT STILL VAGUE) ATTITUDE IN THEIR FORMAL RESPONSE EXPECTED IN A FEW DAYS (REF A).

3. DESPITE THE PROSPECTIVE RESOLUTION OF THE SORTIE ISSUE AND ASIDE FROM ANY OTHER QUID WE MAY OFFER AT A LATER DATE, WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE GREEKS WILL INSIST ON A COST SHARING FORMULA ALONG THE LINES THEY PROPOSED LAST YEAR (REF B). OBVIOUSLY, THE VAGUE NATURE OF THE GREEK FORMULA WOULD PREVENT OUR COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE IN ITS PRESENT FORM, EVEN IF WE DID NOT DISPUTE THE COST INCREASES IT EMBODIES. THEREFORE, AS IN THE CASE OF ALL OTHER ISSUES WE HAVE FACED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE, WE SEE NO "QUICK FIX" IN RESOLVING THE SOUDA COST SHARING QUESTION SHORT OF DETAILED DISCUSSIONS.

4. CONSIDERING THE TIME THIS PROCESS WILL TAKE, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO THESE DISCUSSIONS AT EARLIEST PROPITIOUS MOMENT CONSISTENT WITH OUR PROGRESS AT THE SOUDA SORTIE QUESTION AND OTHER ISSUES.

5. ACTION REQUEST: PLEASE EXPEDITE TRANSMITTAL OF SOUDA COST SHARING INSTRUCTIONS REFERENCED IN PARA 6 OF REF C.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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